

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 SY-10 CPR-02

DRC-01 /109 W

----- 050690

R 211250Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8982

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2002

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONTACTS WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS

REF A) FREETOWN 1221 B) STATE 140499

1. "BILATERAL DINNER" PROPOSED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR FILIPPOV LAST JULY (REF A) BUT DELAYED DUE TO CONFLICTING LEAVE SCHEDULES FINALLY HELD NOVEMBER 16. PRESENT WERE AMBASSADORS, DCMS AND THEIR WIVES.

2. PURPOSE OF SOVIET HOSTED DINNER, OTHER THAN TO CARRY OUT POSSIBLE INSTRUCTION TO BE NICE TO AMERICANS ESCAPES EMBASSY. SOVIETS NEITHER RAISED NOR ENCOURAGED DISCUSSION OF ANY POLITICAL TOPICS, WHETHER INTERNATIONAL OR LOCAL. THEY MADE NO RPT NO REMARKS WHATSOEVER ABOUT CHINESE. AT ONE POINT SOVIETS WERE SURPRISINGLY DEFENSIVE AND APOLOGETIC, WHEN AMBASSADOR TOLD ANECDOTE ABOUT HIS WAR TIME DAYS IN USSR WHEN HE MISTAKENLY ARRESTED AND PLACED IN LUBYANKA FOR SEVERAL HOURS. FILIPPOV QUICKLY INTERRUPTED THE STORY AND SAID "LET US NOT TALK OF TROUBLING EVENTS OF THE PAST IN FRONT OF THE LADIES, THAT WAS IN THE DARK DAYS OF BERIA" AND THEN PROPOSED A TOAST TO THE LADIES PRESENT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT. IN SHORT CONVERSATION WAS
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NON-SUBSTANTIVE AND CONFINED TO FOOD, FISHING, WIVES,

WINES AND WEATHER. AN ENJOYABLE BUT PUZZLING EVENING.
OLSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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